

5 STATUS TRACKING AND NOTIFICATION OF AWIPS COMMISSIONINGS

The ACM is responsible for tracking the commissioning status of AWIPS site components and for providing notification of when these components are commissioned. The AWIPS Commissioning Working Data Base (WDB), under the National Transition Data Base (NTD), is the tool used to track this commissioning activity.

5.1 AWIPS Commissioning Working Data Base

The AWIPS Commissioning WDB contains information on each AWIPS including: location, system identifiers, configuration type, scheduling (e.g., planned and actual dates for acceptance and commissioning), and status within the commissioning process.

Access to this data base is through an NTD account, in place for national, regional, and local managers. Users can view all records and produce standard reports locally. Figure 5-1 shows the menu screen for the AWIPS Commissioning WDB.

National Transition Database (NTD)

Action Record Query Screen Help DATA HELP Window

PrvScr Query PrvRec NxtRec Clear CrystRpt MAP

AWIPS Commissioning Tracking

RG ER AWIPS LWX OFC LWX WFO BALTIMORE, MD/ WASHINGTON, D ST VA

SITE: NWS STERLING R&D CENTER Sterling, VA

LAT: 38-58-32N LONG: 077-28-38W ELEV: 270

MIC: James Travers PHONE: 703-260-0107

DELIVERY: 01-MAR-1999 A DD250 ACCEPT:

INSTALLATION: 04-MAR-1999 A EVALUATION BEGIN:

SITE ACCEPT: 04-MAR-1999 A EVALUATION END:

STATUS: LAST UPDATE: 20-APR-1999

Ship Address Mail Address

- Schedules
- Systems
- AWIPS Configuration
- Associated Offices
- Comm
- Service Program
- Office Equipment

Count: *1

Figure 5-1 AWIPS Commissioning WDB Tracking Screen

Instructions for using the AWIPS WDB are both on-line and printed. The printed instructions have been distributed to the regional AWIPS focal points.

5.2 Internet Access to AWIPS Commissioning Information

In addition to the AWIPS Commissioning WDB, those interested in obtaining information about the AWIPS commissioning activities can use the internet at:

www.awips_commissioning.nws.noaa.gov

Figure 5-2 depicts the AWIPS commissioning Activities Page.

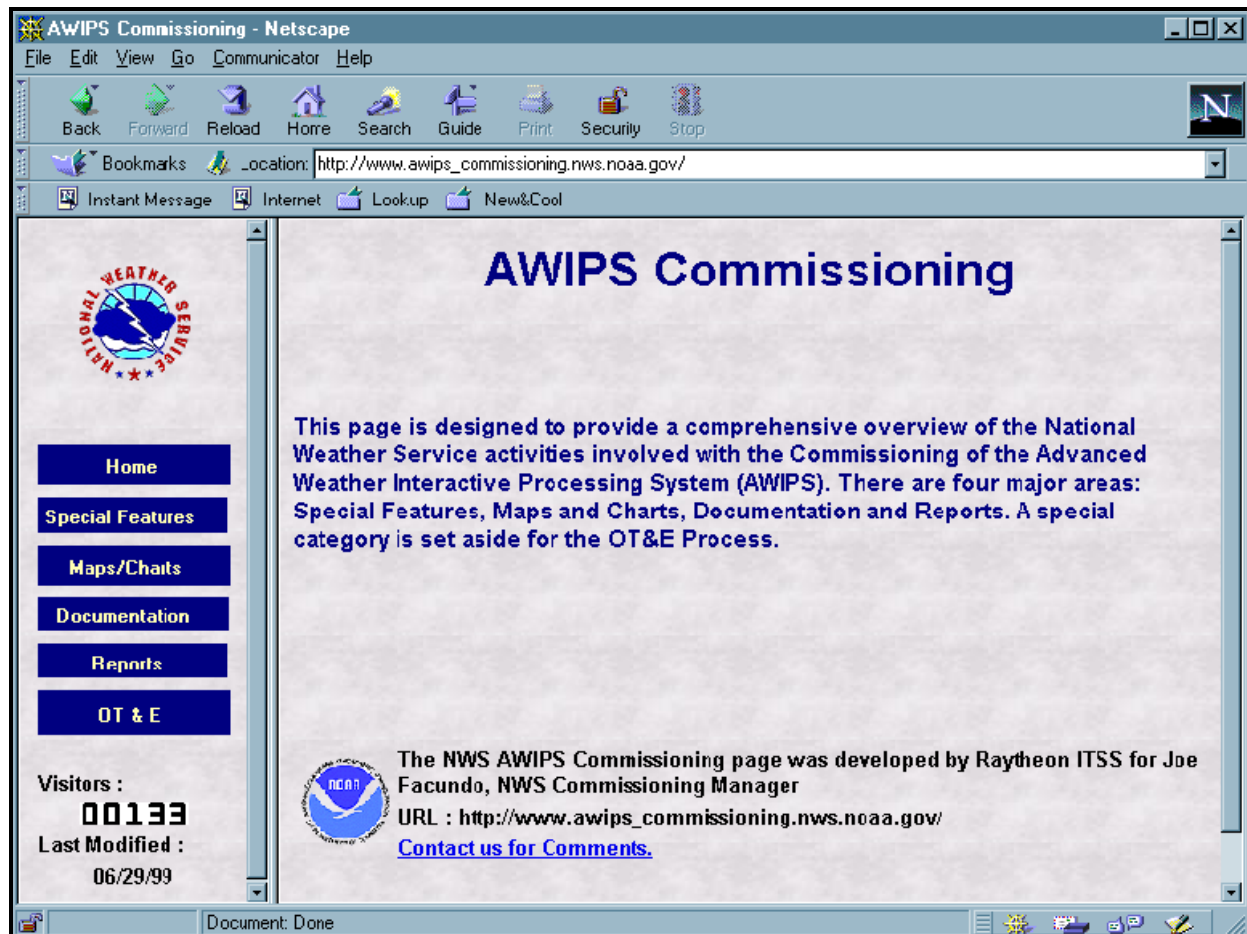


Figure 5-2 The NTD Home Page

The AWIPS commissioning activities Home Page is divided into five sections.

- Section 1: Special Features
- Section 2: Maps/Charts (downloadable shape files)
- Section 3: Documentation

Section 4: Reports
Section 5: OT&E

The geographic data base enables users to view graphical information at NWS locations as downloadable shape files using *ARCEXPLORER* (browser) or *ARCVIEW* (software). The shape files are provided for general and specific NWS site location use. Those specified for NWS use are password protected. Regions can request access via the NTD cc:mail address on the web site.

5.3 Notification

Reports generated from the AWIPS WDB will be used to notify users, both internal and external to the NWS, of AWIPS commissioning activities. The user notification process is illustrated in Figure 5-3.

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ZCZC WSHPNWSH ALL
TTAA00 KWSH DDHHMM

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
1200 NOON EDT WED OCTOBER 26 1999

ATTENTION:  ALL NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE (NWS) OFFICES/
              FAMILY OF SERVICES SUBSCRIBERS / NOAAPORT USERS /
              NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE SUBSCRIBERS / OTHER NWS
              PRODUCT USERS

SUBJECT:     AWIPS COMMISSIONING NOTICE...

              ..... NOTICE .....

ON JANUARY 3... 2000 THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE (NWS) WILL
COMMISSION AWIPS AT:

    PLEASANT HILL NEXRAD WEATHER SERVICE
    OFFICE (KEAX)
    PLEASANT HILL... MO

THE COMMISSIONING WILL OCCUR AT APPROXIMATELY 1800 UTC.

THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMISSIONED AWIPS TO 1.

COMMISSIONING OF THIS SITE MEANS THE AWIPS NOW TRANSMITS ALL
OFFICIAL NWS PRODUCTS INSTEAD OF AFOS... TRANSMISSION OVER AFOS WILL
CEASE UPON THE COMMISSIONING OF AWIPS.

THE NWS FORECAST OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS SITE... AS WELL AS
THE NETWORK CONTROL FACILITY IN SILVER SPRING... MARYLAND...
WILL MONITOR AWIPS PRODUCTS AND COORDINATE MAINTENANCE ACTIONS
AS NEEDED.  NOTE: BECAUSE AWIPS USES THE WMO HEADER FORMAT FOR
PRODUCTS WHICH ARE DIFFERENT FROM AFOS HEADER FORMATS...
AUTOMATED DECODER PROGRAMS MAY REQUIRE SOFTWARE MODIFICATIONS.
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Figure 5-3 AWIPS User Notification Process

The SCM has the responsibility for ensuring that the various communities (e.g., Family of Services) are notified. The SCM will work with a number of organizations involved with telecommunication systems (e.g., FOS, AFOS, etc.) to communicate notification messages. Further details on notification responsibilities are contained in the *Internal and External Communication Plan for the Modernization and Associated Restructuring of the NWS*. The initial notification to users of the planned commissioning of an NWS-sponsored AWIPS unit is expected to occur within 90-120 days of the projected commissioning date. A second notice will be issued within 30-60 days of the projected commissioning date. A third notice will normally be issued within 1 week of the projected commissioning date. Follow-up notifications will be issued periodically notifying external users of the official commissioning dates for those systems that have been commissioned since the last notification.